



TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

IN THIS EDITION

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TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

At the direction of the Select Board, the Town has compiled several resources for renters in the community. Renters looking for assistance with housing-related issues, including tenants' rights, eviction support, housing code violations and fair housing practices, are encouraged to call the Town Services Hotline at 978-929-6600. Renters also may email tenantsupport@actonma.gov for assistance. Renters should know that the Board of Health offers pre-housing inspections. Inspections help to ensure that renters have a safe and sanitary living space that complies with all legal requirements. The Board of Health also provides renters with information about their rights and responsibilities at the time of inspection. To set up an inspection, please call 978-929-6632. There is also a comprehensive list of resources available to residents, including legal resources, which can be found at actonma.gov/communityresources.

The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at the RJ Grey Junior High School Gymnasium located at 16 Charter Road. The last day to register to vote for the election is Wednesday, March 9th. Additional information on the election can be found on Page 4, or by visiting actonma.gov/election.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Auditorium. The warrant is currently open and will close March 23rd. Residents seeking to submit a citizen's petition must do so by the warrant closing date. For more information on Town Meeting and the warrant process, please visit actonma.gov/townmeeting.

Last month, Acton officials including Select Board members David Martin, Dean Charter, Fran Arsenault and members of the Town Manager's office attended a ribbon cutting ceremony (see photo at right) for Eve & Murray's, a new farm-to-home cheese and charcuterie (and much more) shop located in the West Acton Villageworks plaza. We are excited to welcome this new business to the community!



Lastly, I would like to extend a thank-you to members of our Public Works department and contractors for the outstanding job with the clean-up from the recent winter storm that left Acton with over 2-feet of snow throughout the community.

Sincerely,
John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL
978-929-6600

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL & HUMAN SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday - Sunday: Closed

Town Offices Closed:
Monday, Feb. 21 - President's Day

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays & Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Have photos taken in Acton? Submit them to photos@actonma.gov and we'll feature them in future publications.



Mammals of New England

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom—Pre-registration is required

https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0JWZdKBWT9mrNgvDIYNISQ

There is a wide range of mammals found around New England, from the woods, fields and suburbs to the seashore. From the shy fisher to the comical chipmunk, rabbits, foxes, deer, coyotes and even black bear might visit neighborhoods, sometimes under the cover of night. Learn about mammal behavior, tracks and signs to help figure out who is in your neighborhood! But what about the shore? There we might see harbor, gray or even harp seals, or dolphins and whales off shore. Learn more about our New England marine mammals and tricks for telling them apart.

Presenter: Joy Marzolf of The Joys of Nature

Joy has been offering a variety of animal-related education programs for over 20 years. She has worked with a wide range of animals including marine mammals in rehab/rescue programs in Massachusetts, and a wide variety of captive and non-releasable rescued animals in Oregon. She has worked with reptiles in the wild, and in captivity, for over 20 years. Most recently, she was a Naturalist and Educator at Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary. Joy offers programs to a wide range of ages from pre-school to seniors.

For more information please contact Sheryl Ball at the Acton Health Division at sball@actonma.gov

or call 978-929-6453

Funding for CHNA15 is provided from Lahey Hospital and medical Center and Winchester Hospital through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need (DON) process

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



BETH VAN EMBURGH

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Please welcome Beth Van Emburgh to the Police Department as Acton's new Clinical Responder!

Beth grew up in Acton, attended Springfield College and received her Masters in Social Work at Boston College. Beth's past work experience includes 10 years working with children with behavioral and emotional challenges and their families in the communities of Southbridge and Worcester. Beth also spent 5 years working in the prison system with female offenders providing substance abuse and reentry services. Beth is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker as well as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Watch a recent ActonTV interview with Beth [here](#).



BRANDI RANDO

FINANCE DEPARTMENT: Please welcome Brandi Rando, Acton's new Treasury Clerk in the Finance Department!

Brandi joined the Finance Team in early January. Her main responsibilities will be accepting and processing treasury turn ins, bank reconciliations, bi-weekly vendor warrant mailings and helping the Collectors Office during busy times. Brandi's past experience in retail, cash management, customer service and as a staff accountant for the past 6 years will be a tremendous asset to the Finance Department and the Town. Brandi and her family settled in Massachusetts about 7 years ago. Prior to that they lived in Nevada and Washington State.

PUBLIC WORKS

TIPS TO AVOID USING SALT AS A DE-ICER

More salt does not equal more melting snow. Follow product instructions when spreading deicing material and give it time to work. Salt can be harmful to pets and our waterways. Sweep up any material remaining after the snow/ice melts.

When temperatures hit 15° F or below, salt is not effective. Consider using traction materials such as cracked cornmeal, sand or kitty litter. If you're using traction materials that contain an acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, please read the product instructions to understand the pros/cons of these alternative traction measures.

SNOW & ICE MAILBOX REPLACEMENT POLICY

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. It is the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox to clear the snow around the mailbox to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Department. If the snow banks are too high to shovel, place a temporary box beside the road until the snow has melted enough to allow access to the mailbox.

The mailbox should be installed, periodically inspected and maintained by the homeowner in accordance with the guidelines provided by the United States Post Office (www.USPS.com). When installing a mailbox choose a suitable location. If you are unsure, check with the postal carrier. *(continued on next page)*

PUBLIC WORKS

The Town does not replace mailboxes if damaged by snow being discharged by the snowplow. The Town only assumes responsibility if a Town plow comes into contact with the mailbox or post.

The Town does not replace plastic mailboxes. Plastic mailboxes in cold weather become very brittle and are not well-suited to withstand this type of environment. The Town also does not replace mailboxes that are in need of repair due to lack of maintenance, vandalism or have a spike-type support. Homeowners should check the condition of their mailbox and post before the ground freezes and make any necessary repairs. **The Town will not be responsible for damage to any mailbox or post if the front of the box extends past the curb line and/or is within 6-inches from the curb line.**

The Town will only replace mailboxes if the Town's plow came in contact with a well-maintained mailbox or post. The Highway Division will inspect the reported damage to determine the cause of the damage to the mailbox and/or the post. If it is determined that the damage is a result of the Town plow hitting the mailbox or post, the Town staff will attempt to make the necessary repairs. If the mailbox or post is deemed non-repairable, the homeowner may choose from one of the two options listed below:

- the Town will replace the damaged mailbox and/or post with a standard-style metal mailbox and/or wood post,
- the homeowner may opt to furnish and install their own mailbox and post and the Town will reimburse them up to \$100 towards the replacement.

Mailboxes to be fixed will be put on a list and repaired when the Highway Division is back on a regular schedule and all other weather-related priorities are completed.

A claim should be submitted to the Highway Division immediately following the storm so that they can witness the damage and make their determination. Late claims are difficult to verify and may be denied as they may not be able to adequately determine the cause of the damage.

TOWN CLERK

Annual Town Election - Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Nomination papers for the March 29, 2022 Annual Election are available December 1, 2021. Please email clerk@actonma.gov to request Nomination Papers.

Last day to obtain nomination papers - Friday, February 4, 2022

Last day to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars - Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Last day to for candidates to object / withdraw - Thursday, February 24, 2022

Last day to Register to Vote - Wednesday, March 9, 2022

TOWN OFFICIALS OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Moderator

1 Member – 1 year term

Acton Select Board

2 Members - 3 year term

School Committee

2 Members - 3 year term

Trustee- Memorial Library

1 Member - 3 year term

Acton Housing Authority

1 Member – 5 year term

Water Supply District - Acton

1 Water District Commissioner – 3 year term

Absentee / Vote by Mail Applications for the Election are available at the link below.

Mail application to Town Clerk, 472 Main St, Acton Ma 01720

MailMyBallotMA.com



ACTON RECYCLES



**Metal Food
& Beverage Cans**
Empty and rinse



**Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs
& Tubs**
Empty and replace cap



**Glass Bottles
& Jars**
Empty and rinse



Paper & Cardboard
Empty and flatten



**NO TEXTILES IN
THE TRASH**



USE DONATION PROGRAMS:
Tears and holes in your clothes?
No problem! Fabrics are recycled
through special programs.



**NO PLASTIC BAGS
IN THE RECYCLING**

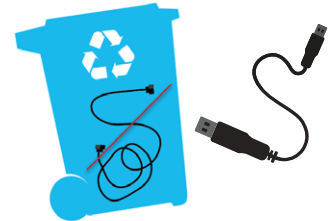


**DO NOT
BAG
Recyclables**

Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.
Return plastic bags to retailers.



**NO TANGLERS IN
RECYCLING (SUCH AS
HOSES OR WIRES)**



Tanglers catch in the machinery
which is dangerous for workers.

THINK BEYOND THE BIN

**Even if you can't put it in your
bin at home...
someone else can put it to
good use**

Search the item at Beyond the Bin
for more info:
bit.ly/TABeyondTheBin



Additional Resources:

Search the item you want to
recycle:
bit.ly/TAREcycleSearch



For more recycling details visit the
Acton Public Works site:
bit.ly/TAREcycles



Questions? Contact abecerra@actonma.gov

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Acton Boxborough United Way (ABUW) Assist Grants

If you are a resident and need emergency help to pay rent and other essential bills, we can help. Emergency grants up to \$1,000 are available to eligible residents.

Rental Assistance Programs

The Housing Consumer and Education Center (HCEC) through South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham is the agency that administers state and federally funded homelessness prevention grants including:

- Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency grant (FEMA)
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Eligibility Requirements

- Households of any size or composition at risk of being displaced or forced to leave their home due to an unforeseen housing emergency or a COVID-19 related employment loss.
- The household income must be below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- Restrictions apply on rental assistance for families residing in subsidized housing or who have a rental voucher
- For most of this funding, citizenship or immigration status is not an issue.
- Financial assistance is limited based on funding, eligibility, and service area. To apply for any of the above programs please visit: <https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php>

Fuel Assistance Programs

Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a government-sponsored program that is administered through SMOC in Framingham.

- Households must have income at or below 60% of the state median income
- Benefit covers heating costs such as oil, propane, electric, and natural gas for both renters and homeowners for the winter heating season

Good Neighbor Energy Fund - The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is sponsored through the Salvation Army.

- Assists households with incomes within 60-80% of the state median income
- Applicants must not be eligible for other fuel assistance programs
- Benefit covers oil, propane, electric, and natural gas and provides a one-time grant of \$500 for both renters and homeowners

For more information or to apply for any of these programs please contact the Community Services Office at 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov.

LOCAL & GOVERNMENT RESOURCE SUPPORTS

Area of Need	Contact:
Food Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acton Food Pantry, actonfoodpantry.org, (978) 635-9295, open every week: 10:00AM–7:00PM Wednesdays, and 9:30AM – 11:30AM Thursdays Mt. Calvary Community Supper, www.mtcalvaryacton.org, (508) 263-5156, Dinner served on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:45 Open Table, www.opentable.org, Stow Food Pantry: www.stowfoodpantry.com, E-mail: stowfoodp@gmail.com, Distribution of food by appointment to families in need. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): www.Mass.gov/SNAP Women Infants and Children (WIC): www.Mass.gov/WIC
Health Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA Health Connector: https://mahealthconnector.optum.com/individual/
MA Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA): https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Mobile App: https://www.mass.gov/how-to/download-the-dta-connect-mobile-app -you can download the app and apply from your phone.
Housing Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA State Aide Housing: https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/ MA Centralized Waitlist: http://www.section8listmass.org/How_to_Apply.php Acton Housing Authority: www.actonhousing.net, E-mail office@actonhousing.net Rent Assistance: https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php
Medical Attention or Answers to Health Questions	<p>IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call your primary care physician. Go to the Emergency Room: Emerson Hospital, 133 Old Rd. to Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Coronavirus Questions or Concerns & Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acton: https://www.actonma.gov/704/COVID-19/ (978) 929-6632 MA Department of Public Health, Epidemiology: (617) 983-6800 Statewide 2-1-1 Helpline: Dial 2-1-1 from a phone or visit www.mass211.org for info on COVID-19 prevention, testing, and referrals. Acton Boxborough United Way: abuww.org, Emergency Grants for Acton residents and families in crisis (rent, food, mortgage...) and critical local service providers. Danny's Place Youth Services: E-mail info@dannys-place.org Domestic Violence Services Network (DVS): E-mail dvvap@concordma.gov, for anyone who needs help with a controlling partner or family member. First Connections: E-mail Imatthews@jri.org, Offering virtual support groups for new parents, postpartum depression and anxiety. Weekly Facebook Circle Times. Metrowest Legal Services: E-mail intake@mwlegal.org Free legal and eviction diversion services for residents Minuteman Senior Services: Visit www.minutemansenior.org or call (888) 222-6171 Minuteman Arc for Human Services: www.minutemanarc.com, Most programs running with telemedicine capability. Neighborhood Brigade: actonboxboroughma@neighborbridge.org, Coordinates the needs of families in crisis with volunteers who want to help. Town of Acton Dept. of Veterans Services: E-mail James MacRae at vso@actonma.gov Town of Acton Council on Aging: E-mail seniorcenter@actonma.gov Town of Acton Community Services Coordinator: E-mail Laura Ducharme at Lducharme@actonma.gov or call (978) 929-6651, Information on a variety of resources such as food, fuel, financial etc.
Mental Health Support	<p>IF THERE IS A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 Call2Talk: 1-508-532-2255 or Text "C2T" to 741741 or Samaritans: 800-252-TEEN (8336) SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990 This is a 24/7 multilingual free hotline for immediate crisis counseling for people experiencing emotional distress re: the pandemic. NAMI (North Alliance on Mental Health Illness), 781-982-3318: www.namimass.org, www.namicentralmiddlesex.org Eliot Community Human Services, E-mail dgarfield@eliotchs.org, Provides outpatient mental health and substance abuse services for all ages.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AML will be closed February 21st for President's Day. AML has several great (and free!) events coming up in February! Learn more and register at [ActonMemorialLibrary.org/Calendar](https://actonmemoriallibrary.org/Calendar)

CHILDREN

ZOOM Bedtime Stories

Mondays at 7 PM - Feb. 7, 14, 28

End your child's day with a calming story. Content will be audio only. Registration required.

ZOOM Baby/Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Feb. 8, 15, 22

Stories, songs, rhymes and movement! Registration required.

Read to a Dog

Tuesdays at 4 PM - Feb. 8, 15, 22

Read to Zora the Golden Retriever in the Story/Crafts room. Please register by 9AM the day before.

ZOOM Singalong Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM - Feb. 9, 16, 23

Join Mr. Robert and his guitar as we sing, dance, and read the best books ever! Registration required.

ZOOM Early Release Programs

Wednesdays at 2 PM - Feb. 9, 16, 23

Different program each Wednesday: STEM & STEAM, book club, chess club, Minecraft and Pokemon, etc. Registration required.

ZOOM Preschool Storytime

Thursdays at 10 AM - Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Geared toward aged 3 and up. Picture books, singing and movement! Registration required.

ZOOM Preschool Crafting

Thursdays at 4 PM - Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Online crafting, materials provided Friday before. Registration required.

ZOOM Saturday Storytime

Saturdays at 12:30 PM - Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

Join us for a weekend afternoon storytime. Registration required.

ZOOM Hero Kids Role-Playing Game

Saturdays at 10 AM - Feb. 12, 26

Hero Kids is a role-playing game like Dungeons and Dragons, but rules have been simplified and content is toned down for Children ages 6+. Registration required.

TWEENS & TEENS

ZOOM Dungeons and Dragons

Saturdays at 10 AM - Feb. 5, 19

Grade 7 and up; Registration required.

ZOOM Learn to Make Japchae - a classic Korean Dish!

Friday, Feb. 4 at 5 PM

Join Acton Memorial Library as we welcome Younhee Shin who will walk us through all the steps to prepare japchae, a delicious and authentic Korean dish. Open to all ages. Registration required.

ZOOM Black Revolution on Campus: History, Allyship and Implications

Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7 PM

Join us for a talk on the Black activism movement on college campuses. Joanne Lafortune will discuss this movement's history and its implications as well as the role allies played. This challenging and inspiring history has lessons for all of us that bear continued relevance. Lafortune's talk will be partially based in material from The Black Revolution on Campus by Martha Biondi. Open to all ages. Registration required.

ZOOM Teen Vacation Week Craft - Felted Fox

Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 2 PM

Craft a charming fox with merino wool. In this class, you'll learn the basics of needle felting. Pop up Art School will show you how to sculpt basic shapes with a barbed needle and how to add the beaded black eyes. Needle felting is fun, relaxing, and it's easier than it looks! Open to youth 13-18 years old. Registration required.

ADULTS

ZOOM Creative Feast: Passionate Dishes for your Valentine

Tuesday, Feb. 15th at 7 PM

Join chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast for some passion in the kitchen! In both art and literature, food invites passion. Romantic foods don't have to be limited to oysters and wine. Food color, texture, and preparation all play a part in a passionate meal. Spicy food will get your heart rate going and make your cheeks flush. Registration required.

ZOOM Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, Feb. 15th at 7:30 PM

This month, AML Book Group will discuss the book *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. Registration required.

ZOOM African American Art presented by the Smithsonian

Friday, Feb. 25th at 3 PM

An interactive presentation from the Smithsonian Museum The lives of African American artists lend insight into the context of their works. Learn about the diverse body of artwork created by African American artists and the historical, social, and cultural events, as well as the life experiences, that inspired their work.

STAY CONNECTED WITH AML

Stay up-to-date with announcements and library info by following on Facebook ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ActonMemLibrary)) and Instagram ([@ActonLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/ActonLibrary)) and Twitter ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://twitter.com/ActonMemLibrary)), or by visiting actonmemoriallibrary.org

Email Newsletter: Sign-up to get the latest news! - <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/about-the-library/newsletter/>

AML E-Resources: Check out our wide array of e-resources, available anytime remotely - <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/resources-research/e-resources/>

The Senior Center offers in-person and virtual activities and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday 8 AM to 7:30 PM, and Friday 8 AM to 12 noon. Visit our website actoncoa.com for the latest information, to view our newsletter, or to sign up for notifications. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ActonCOA>). The COA is following local guidelines concerning COVID-19 precautions which as of late January included a mask mandate and a reminder from the Acton Board of Health to social distance.

February Program Highlights:

- **How to Gamble Safely**, presented by the Mass Council on Gaming and Health, Thursday, February 3, at 1:00
- **Greatest Love Songs** multimedia presentation with John Clark, Thursday, February 10, at 1:00
- **Greeting Card workshop** with Nancy Dodge, Tuesday, February 15, at 2:00
- **Listening to Four Centuries of Music** with Sivan Etedgee who will lecture, share audio clips and play piano, Thursday, February 17 at 12:30
- Jane Oneail explores **Faith Ringgold's artistic career of quilt making and painting** which explores race in the American experience, via Zoom, Wednesday, February 23 at 1:00
- **Political Trivia** with author Rich Rubino, via Zoom, Thursday, February 24 at 1:00

The **AARP Tax-Aide Program** begins this month. Volunteers prepare tax returns for low- to moderate-income Acton and Boxborough residents.

Other activities include 12 in-person fitness classes a week, movies, Words Galore class, line dancing, gym with senior-friendly equipment, and various groups including a chess club.

There is a new **caregiver support group** that meets Tuesdays at 2:00 via Zoom for anyone caring for an older adult. It is facilitated by Julie Norstrand, PhD, MSW.

Meals: The Minuteman Senior Service dining site offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon. Grab and Go lunches continue to be offered Monday through Friday. Sign up at least 24 hours in advance with John in person or by phone 781-221-7098. In addition, Benchmark at Robbins Brook is providing lunch on February 15 (eat in at noon; grab & go at 12:30) and the COA will serve a macaroni and cheese dinner on Tuesday, February 22 (eat in at 5; grab & go at 5:30). Sign up for these two meals with the COA.

For seniors and their family members seeking information on area **social services**, please contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at 978-929-6652. She provides information on home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance, and a variety of other services.

To be added or removed from the paper newsletter mailing list, please contact us. You can reach the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652 and seniorcenter@actonma.gov.



Detective Luke Penney helping deliver meals at a recent drive-thru meal event

RECREATION DIVISION

Acton Recreation provides a variety of programs for everyone. We recently partnered with Stage Music Center and Think for Fun to add interesting and stimulating new classes to our schedule. Registration is open now at actonrec.com for these and more.

We are already busy reserving field and facility rentals for 2022. Please submit your application soon to secure your preferred date.

We can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, by telephone: 978-929-6640 ext. 0, or email recreation@actonma.gov.

Stay active, make new friends, connect with the community and enjoy winter!

Featured Programs

Nature Walks with Tom

Explore Acton's trails with Natural Resources Director, Tom Tidman. Each walk will introduce a different local conservation area. Learn about the native plants and wildlife habitats that make Acton unique! First class meets at the Arboretum. Fridays, January 28 through February 25, 10:30am to 12:15pm Fee: \$50.00



Belly Dance with Carolisa - ONLINE

No prior experience necessary to participate in this beautiful, joyous dance. Carolisa welcomes all ages and fitness levels in her friendly class.

Session 3: Wednesdays, January 26 through March 3, 6:30 to 7:30 pm Fee: \$63.00

Session 4: Wednesdays, March 9 through April 13, 6:30 to 7:30pm Fee: \$63.00

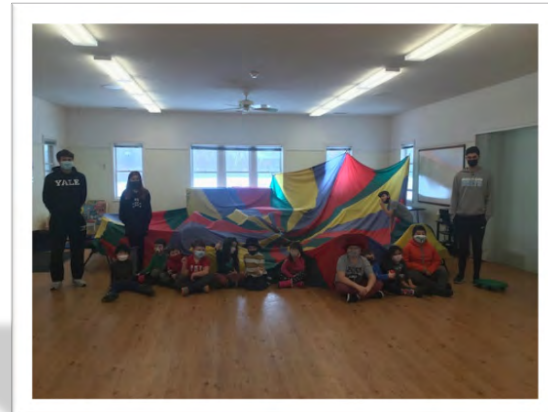


2022 February School Vacation Program

Come play with us at the Recreation Center! Our program includes arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, theater, outdoor adventure and more. Location: Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive, South Acton Tuesday through Friday, February 22-25, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Ages 5-12 Fee: \$50.00 per child/day; Optional After-Care: 4:00-5:30 pm, Fee: \$20 per child/day

2022 April School Vacation Program

Come play with us at the Recreation Center! Our program includes arts and crafts, active games, team building, music, theater, outdoor adventure and more. Location: Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive, South Acton; Friday, April 15 and Tuesday through Friday, April 19-22, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Ages 5-12 Fee: \$50.00 per child/day; Optional After-Care: 4:00-5:30 pm, Fee: \$20 per child/day



RECREATION DIVISION

NEW! 2022 Camp Hill Top - Ages 4-7 and CIT Ages 14-15

We're excited to make our new Camp Hill Top available to children ages 4-7, with CIT option for ages 14-15. Located at the Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive in South Acton, Camp Hill Top offers a wide range of fun, age-appropriate activities including arts & crafts, drama, sports, group challenges, nature, and special activities based on the weekly theme (Camp Hill Top operates separately from NARA Camp and with different themes). On Thursday afternoons campers are bussed to NARA Beach for swimming. Other days there is water play at Camp Hill Top home base. All health and safety protocols are followed. Register now at actonrec.com.

June 27-July 1: Building and Engineering Week

July 5-July 8: Mad Scientists Week

July 11-15: Superheroes Week

July 18-22: Olympics Week

July 25-29: Community Helpers Week

Aug. 1-5: Exploration Space Week

Aug. 8-12: Travel around the World Week

Aug. 15-19: Camp Hill Top's Got Talent Week

Aug. 22-26: Creepy Crawlers Week



2022 NARA Summer Camp - Ages 4-15



NARA Summer Camp creates an environment that encourages children to grow both physically and socially. Our dedicated staff works with peer groups to engage children in healthy outdoor activity along with enrichment opportunities that are challenging and fun. Additional special activities and field trips are based on the weekly theme. All health and safety protocols are followed. Register now at actonrec.com.

June 27-July 1: Disney Week

July 5-July 8: Mystery Week

July 11-15: Pirate Week

July 18-22: Superhero Week

July 25-29: Olympics Week

Aug. 1-5: Carnival Week

Aug. 8-12: NARA Ninja Warrior Week

Aug. 15-19: Star Wars Week

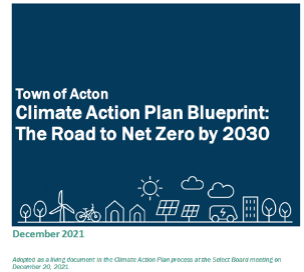
Aug. 22-26: NARA's Got Talent Week



THIS MONTH IN SUSTAINABILITY

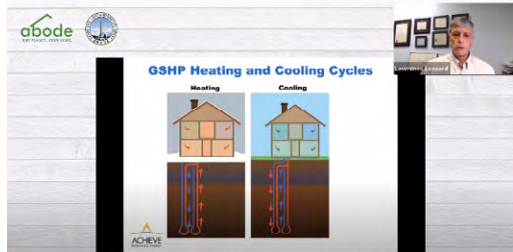
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BLUEPRINT NOW AVAILABLE

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) Blueprint is here! Together with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Sustainability Office presented the report to the Select Board on December 20th. The Blueprint contains a list of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our buildings, energy, transportation and through nature-based solutions. You can find the Blueprint [here](#). The final CAP will be published in May – to stay up-to-date visit the Climate Action Plan blog [here](#).



HAVE YOU JOINED THE CLEAN ENERGY CHALLENGE?

The Town of Acton is working with Abode Energy Management to advance air source and ground source heat pump adoption by providing FREE consultation to Acton residents and businesses. Abode connects residents and businesses with local, reputable contractors.



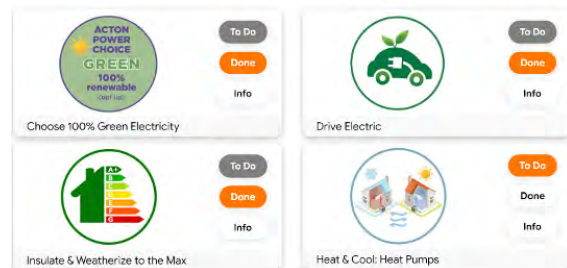
Through this program you can request, receive, and compare quotes through multiple contractors and discuss the project with an independent Energy Advisor every step of the way. Visit the Abode page for more information.

Did you miss the heat pump webinars? To learn about heat pumps check out the launch session [here](#). For a deep dive on ground source heat pumps you can click [here](#).

ENERGIZE ACTON: A NEW PLATFORM TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE

Are you looking for more ways to act on climate? The Energize Acton platform contains a list of actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future. This initiative is a partnership between the Town of Acton and the Acton Climate Coalition. Join Energize Acton to reach the goal of 300 households taking action by the end of 2022! You can do this by taking action at home, at work, and in daily life — along with your family, neighbors, and Acton friends — to reduce your carbon footprint and help reduce climate impacts. Sign up and learn more here:

<https://bit.ly/EnergizeActon>



PLANNING DIVISION

Historic Structures and Modern Setbacks - Barbara Rhines, Cultural Resource Planner

Most would agree that the homes and structures within a Historic District preserve a “sense of place.” These districts preserve not only the history of architectural styles, but also how past generations chose to develop before zoning laws were in place. For example, within what are now Historic Districts, 18th- and 19th-century homes were often built close to the road to avoiding excess snow shoveling. Or a barn may stand quite close to a current property line because it was originally shared between two homes owned by an extended family.

But Zoning regulations change over time, and Acton’s Zoning Bylaw now requires greater setbacks for front and side yards. A potential problem for historic homeowners arises if a structure needs to be rebuilt, except in specific cases of disaster, such as fire. The owner would have to rebuild the structure to meet Zoning’s current dimensional regulations.

This has led to odd situations within Historic Districts where a historic structure, such as a barn, could not be rebuilt at all because there simply wasn’t enough usable land to meet the current setbacks. Or perhaps a structure could be rebuilt on the lot but would be placed in an odd, non-historical setting.

The Historic District Commission and the Planning Board are working to remedy this issue for Acton’s three Historic Districts. Look to Town Meeting to see the amendment to Zoning that allows reconstruction of a historic building within a Historic District to be kept in its original location on the lot.

Questions or comments? Barbara can be reached by emailing brhines@actonma.gov.

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

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Building Division	978-929-6633	building@actonma.gov
Cemetery Division	978-929-6642	cemetery@actonma.gov
West Acton Citizens' Library	978-929-6654	wacl@actonma.gov
Collector/Treasurer Office	978-929-6622	collector@actonma.gov
Community Resources Office	978-929-6651	lducharme@actonma.gov
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Acton Water District	978-263-9107	www.actonwater.com

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